

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02406 281217Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2629

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T LISBON 2406

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS USCINCEUR AND USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SP, PO

SUBJ: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: STATE 91998

1. I DO NOT SEE ANY WAY IN WHICH GOP IS LIKELY BE HELPFUL IN BRINGING SPAIN MORE CLOSELY INTO NORTHERN ATLANTIC POLITICAL AND MILITARY FRAMEWORK. MOREOVER, GIVEN BASIC PORTUGUESE SUSPICION OF USG MOTIVES, ANY APPROACH BY US ON THIS SUBJECT IS LIKELY TO BE INTERPRETED AS A MANEUVER DESIGNED TO INFLUENCE INTERNAL PORTUGUESE EVENTS. THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN PRESS SPECULATION THAT USG IS SEEKING SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO "AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR PORTUGAL."

2. IT IS ALSO DIFFICULT TO FIGURE OUT WHO TO APPROACH WITHIN GOP ON THIS SUBJECT. RAISING IT TO PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL WOULD HEIGHTEN SUSPICIONS; PRIME MINISTER WILL CERTAINLY NOT BE HELPFUL AND FONMIN MELO ANTUNES HAS NOT YET ESTABLISHED HIMSELF SUFFICIENTLY IN FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO TAKE ON AN ISSUE AS TOUCHY AS THIS ONE.

3. FINALLY I QUESTION WHETHER IT IS WISE AT THIS POINT TO BRING GOP INTO A DEBATE ON THE NATURE OF NATO. IF AT OUR IN-

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STIGATION THEY BEGIN TO FOCUS ON THIS KIND OF DEBATE THEIR VIEWS

ARE LIKELY TO BE UNHELPFUL.

4. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE MY RECOMMENDATION IS THAT WE NOT RAISE
SUBJECT WITH GOP AT THIS TIME.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES

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NNN

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